

## **NEW VISITING ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE FOR UNITING AGEWELL RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES IN TASMANIA**

Dear Residents, Families and Representatives

On 10 December, the Director of Public Health announced new directions for Residential Aged Care Facilities across Tasmania which will come into effect this Wednesday, 15 December 2021.

The new directions impact on Visiting Arrangements for all visitors to residential aged care facilities and requires aged care providers to only permit visitors if:

- a) they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide evidence of their vaccination certificate on entry; or
- b) if unvaccinated, they provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of their visit, including children over one month old. No exemptions apply to this requirement other than for end-of-life care.

Other requirements include:

- Surgical facemasks (not cloth masks) must be worn at all times, including by children under 12 years of age where practicable. Masks must cover the nose and mouth and may only be removed to drink or eat.
- Visits can occur in a resident's room, outdoors, or in the event of an activity, in a communal area if room density requirements can be met and all people maintain social distancing of 1.5m.
- All visitors will need to complete the visitor declaration and sign in process, including QR code scan on entry.

To manage these additional visitor requirements, all Uniting AgeWell facilities will have Visitor Coordinators in place for the coming weeks who will conduct visitor screening between 10am and 6pm, seven days per week. Doors will be locked outside of these hours to ensure all visitors can be appropriately screened. While we prefer all visitors to arrange their visit between 10am and 6pm, we will continue to offer flexibility where needed.

Please refer to Uniting AgeWell's Safe Visiting Guidelines Update 15 December 2021 for further information.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

We will again be implementing a COVID-Safe approach for Christmas Day, as we did last year.

While there will be many residents who will go out with their families for Christmas lunch, there will be other residents who will enjoy a special Christmas lunch with all the trimmings in the dining room.

To maintain COVID-Safe practice, those residents who are dining-in will not be able to have guests join them for lunch.

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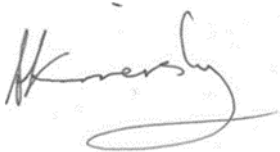
Instead, families will be invited to visit in either the morning or afternoon and enjoy a complimentary platter of festive fare with their loved one, noting the Safe Visiting Guidelines will continue to apply.

These individually packaged platters (enough for three people) will include sweet treats such as Christmas cake, mince tarts, shortbread and cherries and will be given to families on arrival to be enjoyed in the resident's room, out in the garden, or other designated area.

Each facility will provide further details regarding visitor bookings for Christmas Day in the coming days.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support to ensure safe visiting can take place for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kinnersly', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

**Andrew Kinnersly**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Uniting AgeWell**

Enc. Safe Visiting Guidelines 15 December 2021